

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A composite chromium plating film containing hard particles in network-shaped microcracks, said microcracks having a surface-occupying ratio of 10 to 20% by area and a distribution density of ~~4,200~~
1,200 to 2,500/cm², and the amount of said hard particles being 1 to 15% by mass per 100% by mass of the entire plating film.

2. (Original) The composite chromium plating film according to claim 1, wherein said plating film comprises at least two layers.

3. (Previously Presented) A sliding member having the composite chromium plating film recited in claim 1 formed on at least a sliding surface of a sliding member substrate.

4. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a sliding member comprising conducting at least one cycle comprising (a) forming a hard chromium plating layer on a sliding surface of a sliding member substrate, and (b) subjecting the resultant hard chromium plating layer to an inverse voltage treatment, in a state where said substrate is immersed in a chromium-

plating bath containing at least chromium oxide, sulfuric acid, silicofluoride, a sulfonic-group-containing compound or its salt, an anionic surfactant and hard particles.

5. (Previously Presented) A sliding member having the composite chromium plating film recited in claim 2 formed on at least a sliding surface of a sliding member substrate.

6. (New) The composite chromium plating film according to claim 1 wherein said hard particles comprise at least one of Al_2O_3 , SiC , Si_3N_4 and diamond.

7. (New) The sliding member of claim 3 on a piston ring or a cylinder liner for an internal combustion engine.

8. (New) The composite chromium plating film of claim 1 wherein the surface-occupying ratio of the microcracks is 10 to 15% by area and the distribution density of the microcracks on the surface of the plating film is 1500 to 2000/cm.

9. (New) The plating film of claim 6 wherein the average diameter of the hard particles is 0.3 to 5 μm .

10. (New) The plating film of claim 6 wherein the average diameter of the hard particles is 0.3 to 2 μm .

11. (New) The plating film of claim 6 wherein the average diameter of the hard particles is 0.3 to 1.5 μ m.

12. (New) The plating film of claim 1 having a thickness of 10 to 200 μ m.